

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 1/9/07
HB 2

Town of Richey

773-5634

Box 205
Richey, Montana 59259

January 8, 2006

John N. Williams, Mayor
MT Coal Board Chairman
P.O. Box 1902
Colstrip, MT 59323

RE: MT Coal Board Funding

Dear Sir:

The Town of Richey has been a recipient on (3) three separate occasions and it has been very beneficial for our small town. It was important for our community to have assistance in funding these projects and because of this assistance for coal impacted towns, our town has been able to continue to keep the town's debt reduced and improve the infrastructure. These projects included assistance with the Reverse Osmosis Water project, Lagoon Improvements project, and Emergency Water tank project-all very necessary for the health and well being of our community.

I am well aware that there have been other towns in our state that have benefited from the MT Coal Board funds too. It is essential for these towns to get the aid the MT Coal Board provides because often times their own budget cannot cover the expenses that are incurred in completing infrastructure needs as well as other improvements for their towns.

I hope that you will continue to fund the MT Coal Board in the future.

Sincerely,



John Whiteman, Jr.
Mayor of Richey

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 1/9/07
HB 2

THE CITY OF HARDIN

The City of Hardin
406 N. Cheyenne Avenue
Hardin, Montana 59034
406-665-9292

January 5, 2007

Members of Natural Resource and Commerce Appropriation Subcommittee:

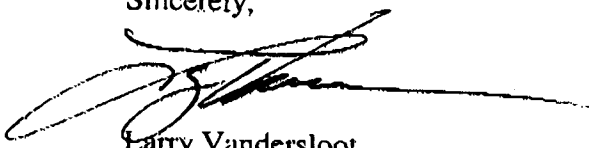
Representative Rick Ripley, Chairman
Senator Ken Henson
Representative John Musgrove
Senator Bill Tash
Representative Craig Witte
Senator Mitch Tropila

Re: Coal Board Allocations

Dear Subcommittee Members:

The City of Hardin strongly supports the proposed budget of 2.9% (\$2,000,000) allocation from the coal severance tax which funds the coal board for grants to coal impacted communities. Future funding opportunities for coal impacted communities are dependant upon the approval of these appropriations for equipment and other critical infrastructure needs of these communities.

Sincerely,



Larry Vandersloot
DPW/Fire Chief
City of Hardin

EXHIBIT 12

DATE 1/4/07

HB 0

Treasure County Sheriff's Office
307 Rapelje
P.O. Box 511
Hysham, Mt 59038

Wayne A. Robison
Sheriff / Coroner
406-342-5211
406-855-2995

Jay Paff
Undersheriff
406-342-5211
406-855-2994

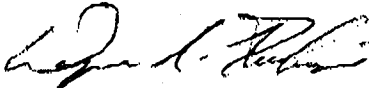
Members of the Natural Resources and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee:

I write this letter in support of the Montana Coal Board's budget proposal. This organization benefits our state in many ways, and its proposal would allow the Montana Coal Board to continue providing financial assistance for necessary projects. Our communities depend upon this board for grants to meet the needs of our citizens, and I wholehearted support the Coal Board's proposal.

As sheriff of Treasure County, I know firsthand the impact that the Montana Coal Board has on citizens of this state. Our department was awarded a grant to fund a new vehicle; my old patrol pickup did not have capabilities for search and rescue, for first response to medical emergencies, and for prisoner transport. The Coal Board's support enabled us to purchase a vehicle to meet the safety needs of our citizens and department. Our small county does not have the resources for such purchases, and we appreciate the generosity of the Coal Board.

The Coal Board plays a critical role in helping Montana's communities. Without grants awarded by this agency, many of Montana's coal-impacted areas would not be able to offer services or sustain levels of service. I fully support the Montana Coal Board's request.

Sincerely,



Wayne A. Robison
Treasure County Sheriff